

SOCIAL CARE TRANSPORT

Report By: Wendy Fabbro

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Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

1. To note the actions taken by Social Care Transport to ensure compliance with the Council's Environmental Policy.

Financial Implications

2. Potential financial savings achieved by reducing the miles travelled on scheduled routes, non-cashable saving to the environment by sign posting service users to their nearest appropriate day centres upon assessment.

Background

3. On 2 March 2009 Environment Scrutiny Committee considered a report on Transportation Matters when they were informed about the co-ordination of transport services including those provided by the voluntary sector. The Committee were interested in ensuring that Council commissioned vehicles were effectively used and that Carbon emissions were kept to a minimum. Arising from the debate the Committee requested that it be informed about any transport efficiencies identified through the review of day care opportunities. This report sets out the current position.
4. In 2007/2008 the Adult Social Care and Strategic Housing Scrutiny Committee reviewed day opportunities for older people commissioned by the Council. The review raised 3 main issues – (i) the lack of usage of some centres with the corresponding high unit cost, especially but not exclusively within the 30-year Shaw Healthcare contract; (ii) the quality and variety of activities on offer in many centres; (iii) the chaotic, illogical and inefficient arrangements for transporting service users to centres, which often involved inappropriately long journeys. The Review Group considered that commercial taxi firms did not offer good value for money because day services were often severely restricted by the late pick up and early drop-off times. The report was presented to the Adult Social Care and Strategic Housing Scrutiny Committee in June 2008 and a draft action plan responding to the recommendations was considered at the same time.
5. A desktop exercise showed that economies could be made within a number of day centres and travelling costs. Day service modernisation proposals could raise a £50k savings and reduce unit cost of day care by 32% of which £16K would be from transport services, this by reducing mileage by 13,455miles per annum. Rationalisation of day services would also realise broader benefits such as less travelling, therefore less time spent in transit, more time spent attending the day centre and less impact on the environment.

Further information on the subject of this report is available from
Tracy Armstrong, Transport Officer, on 01432 261599

6. Significant progress has been made in identifying those who travel long distances and where these service users need to be relocated in order to reduce travel time and mileage and receive a full day's attendance at the day centre. If the proposed actions are approved by Cabinet, (currently scheduled for consideration 4 June) service users will be re-located to day services within their own area, thus reducing the miles travelled and ensuring that time spent on the transport meets with Herefordshire Transport Code of Practice. In addition, the Social Care Transport Team will continue to monitor and review scheduled routes to maximise efficiencies where possible and continue to look at those who would be considered for travel training, to enable them to access public transport services already available.
7. Travel Training is a service that is offered to all Adult Service Users with Herefordshire. This service was implemented June 2008 and to date the team have received 33 referrals of which 19 completed, 90% walk & bus, 10% walk, 3 on-going, 3 waiting assessments, 3 unsafe to travel train due to location and safety.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT; The Committee note the intended actions by Social Care Transport, to ensure compliance with the Council's Environmental Policy.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- None identified.